



Translating Research Evidence into Public Health Policies and Practices: CANVax

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Global Challenges in Vaccine Acceptance Science and Programs

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 @DubeEve

CONTEXT

In 2013,
Canada = 27
out of 28 of
the world's
richest nations
for vaccine
coverage of
children

OUR WORK ABOUT US SURVIVAL GIFTS DONATE Q

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 - UNICEF Report Card 13
 - UNICEF Report Card 12
 - **UNICEF Report Card 11**
 - UNICEF Report Card 10
 - > UNICEF Reports and Resources
 - > Canadian Reports and Resources
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Child Well-Being in Rich Countries: A comparative overview



HOT OFF THE PRESS: UNICEF releases [Report Card 13: Fairness for Children](#) – read how children in wealthy nations are faring in 2016.

Kids in 360 degrees

UNICEF's Report Card 11, Child Well-Being in Rich Countries: A comparative overview, measures the level of child well-being achieved in the world's richest nations.

The League Table of Child Well-being ranks 29 industrialized countries on an index of child well-being. The index averages 26 indicators across five dimensions: Material Well-being, Health and Safety, Education, Behaviours and Risks, and Housing and Environment. League tables for each of these dimensions, and for each indicator within them, measure and compare progress for children across these countries. The *Stuck in the Middle* infographic shows the only countries that

<https://www.unicef.ca/en/blog/immunization-in-canada-an-issue-of-equality>

CONTEXT

In a 2013 report, Canada is 27 on 28 the world's richest nations for vaccine coverage of children



DONATE



A

[Children](#) – read how

the overview ,
S.

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<https://www.unicef.ca/en/blog/immunization-in-canada-an-issue-of-equality>

VACCINE ACCEPTANCE AND UPTAKE TASK GROUP (VAUTG)

Pan-Canadian Public Health Network, 2014 – 2015

Mandate:

To develop strategic approaches, concepts and tools that can be used to guide and support more cohesive, complementary and effective ways to set, achieve and maintain desired levels of immunization acceptance and uptake, at national, regional and local levels

Focus:

- Coverage assessment (environmental scan of coverage data, state of registries, optimal approaches)
- Best practices in addressing vaccine hesitancy / enhancing vaccine acceptance
- Research and development (knowledge gaps and research priorities)

CANADA'S DECENTRALIZED HEALTH SYSTEM

In Canada,
health is under
P/T
responsibility



VAUTG RECOMMENDATIONS, 2015

Improving Coverage Data

- Strengthen registries (adopt common standard, expand scope).
- Strengthen national immunization coverage surveys.

Designing effective tools and interventions

- Embrace evidence-informed interventions (and systematically evaluate and share results)
- Conduct multidisciplinary research to inform policy/interventions in 3 domains:
 - ✓ Patient, Provider and System-driven determinants of vaccine acceptance and uptake
 - ✓ In-depth Research to better understand the role / importance of determinants
 - ✓ Interventions to address the determinants

VAUTG RECOMMENDATIONS, 2015

Strengthening Institutional Capacity to Improve Uptake

- Establish a separate & ongoing program to provide **research support** for activities related to vaccine acceptance/uptake.
- Establish a **clearing house / focal point** for supporting social/behavioral science research on vaccine acceptance/uptake that would become a permanent part of Canada's immunization research landscape.
 - ✓ Maintain inventory of "shareable" products/tools
 - ✓ Monitor, update and share latest relevant research and best-practices
 - ✓ Provide expert multidisciplinary counsel and advice

The VAUTG report was presented to public health authorities just before the election of a new government

IMMUNIZATION PARTNERSHIP FUNDS



- 25 millions over 5 years (2016-2021)
- Aligned with VAUTG recommendations
- Support initiatives by P/Ts government and the research community to:
 - Increase demand vaccination
 - Enable healthcare providers to vaccinate patients
 - Enhance access to vaccination services



CREATION OF A CANADIAN IMMUNIZATION RESOURCE CENTRE



CANADIAN
PUBLIC HEALTH
ASSOCIATION

ASSOCIATION
CANADIENNE DE
SANTÉ PUBLIQUE

- Led by the Canadian Public Health Organization with funding from the Immunization Partnership Funds
- Primary objectives:
 - Increase access to evidence based products and resources relevant to the Canadian context for the target audience that can help support an increase in immunization awareness and coverage
 - Increase awareness among target audience of the online resource centre and relevant issues, trends, and best practices vis-à-vis vaccine acceptance and uptake to help inform target audience immunization activities
- Target audiences:

Immunization program managers and promotional managers in Canada (HCPs *not* the main target, but will benefit from the resource)

MAIN FINDINGS OF NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

METHODS FOR STAYING UP-TO-DATE



32 interviews with immunization program managers, policy analysts, program coordinators, health educators, medical directors, chief medical health officers across Canada (Oct 2017 – March 2018)

MAIN FINDINGS OF NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

MAIN CHALLENGES



- Significant amount of **time needed to weed through** all the information & identify what is relevant
- **Operationalization:** How to translate the evidence into practice

MAIN FINDINGS OF NEEDS ASSESSMENTS

INFORMATION NEEDS

- **Supporting the role of HCPs**
(ensure they have appropriate information, equip them to communicate with vaccine-hesitant parents)
- **Optimal communication approaches** (what make a good resources?; should we use narratives?; how to make sure our communication will not back-fire?)

'There are constant changes and sending information to front-line staff in a way they can understand – but only have to read one sentence because that's all the time they have'

'We need not only to know the myths, but we need to know how to address them. Public health people aren't using social media in the way that it is intended, for engaging and creating stories'



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In Brief

The Canadian Vaccination Evidence Resource and Exchange Centre

Your online immunization resource centre

Building the capacity to improve vaccine acceptance and uptake through the curation of evidence based resources.

[See how it works!](#)

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About CANVax

CANVax is an online database of evidence-based resources to support immunization program development



CHALLENGES AHEAD

- **Attract** key audience (how to become a 'one-stop shop'?)
- Populate website, keep **accurate** and **up-to-date** with limited resources
- **Sharing** 'internal resources' from the audience to avoid duplication **but** need of internal approval (intellectual property)
- Make evidence **operationalizable** and relevant at the provincial / territorial level → need huge amount of work

Franz Reichelt's jump from the Eiffel Tower with his own personal flying invention



CONCLUDING REMARKS

It's possible to translate evidence into practices and policies, but it takes time and trust between researchers and decision-makers as well as... a window of opportunity

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